

Amendment No. 1 to HB2845

**Buck
Signature of Sponsor**

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Date _____

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Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 3015

House Bill No. 2845*

By deleting all of the language after the caption and substituting therefor the following:

WHEREAS, The Child Sex Abuse Task Force convened pursuant to Public Chapter No. 350 and developed a report including recommendations;

WHEREAS, Such recommendations include implementing a three-county pilot program for an alternative community partnership model child protective services system and establishing a pilot mental health court in Shelby County; now, therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Subject to the availability of funding, the Department of Children's Services shall designate three counties in which to implement an alternative child protective services system pilot program. Such counties shall include one (1) rural county, one (1) mid-size county, and one (1) urban county.

SECTION 2. The pilot program shall evaluate the feasibility of using a dual response or dual track model approach to statewide child protective services. Under the dual track model, severe incidents of child abuse and neglect that may involve criminal violations shall be assigned into an investigative track. Less severe violations shall be assigned to a family assessment track with a connection to family services.

SECTION 3. Subject to the availability of funding, the county commission of any county having a population of eight hundred thousand (800,000) or more according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census, may designate a division of

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the county's general sessions court as a mental health court for purposes of participation in the mental health court pilot project. The county shall designate resources for the implementation of the mental health court pilot project including at least one (1) judge who will function as the mental health court judge at least part-time. The court shall be staffed using existing general sessions court staff members. In addition, the general sessions civil and criminal courts, the public defender's office, the district attorney's office and any other appropriate agencies shall be included in the planning and implementation of the pilot project.

SECTION 4. The Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities shall designate a subcommittee to explore funding options for the pilot project, including federal matching grant funds, state funds, local government funds and private resources. Such committee shall secure funding prior to the implementation of the pilot program.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.